

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

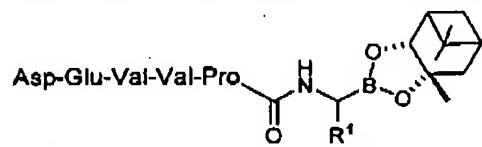
Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (cancelled)

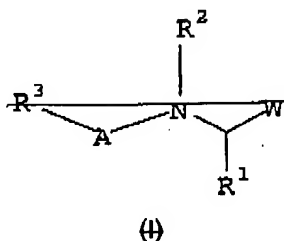
Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

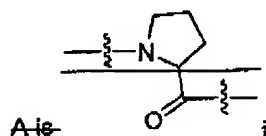
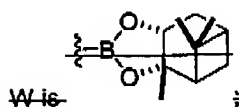
Claim 16 (currently amended) A compound of ~~Formula (1)~~ formula:



or a stereoisomer or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



wherein:



R¹ is -CH₂CH₂-Ar, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-Ar, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-Ar, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH₂CH₂C(CH₃)₂, -CH₂CH₂CH₂C(CH₂CH₃)₂, or -CH₂CH₂CH₂-cyclobutyl, wherein Ar is phenyl, naphthyl, or biphenyl, and phenyl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1-2 substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C₁-C₄ alkyl, hydroxy, methoxy, phenoxy, and trifluoromethyl;

R² is H; and

R³ is H-Asp-Glu-Val or acetyl.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A compound of Claim 16 selected from the group consisting of

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-4-phenylbutylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-5-phenylpentylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(2-naphthyl)propylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(2-methyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(3-methyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-methyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(1,1'-biphen-4-yl)-4-ylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(2,5-dimethyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(2,4-dimethyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-trifluoromethyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(3-trifluoromethyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-fluoro)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-phenoxy)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-isopropyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-cyclohexyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-*tert*-butyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-methoxy)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-chloro)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-bromo)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(2-fluoro)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(3-fluoro)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(2,6-difluoro)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-hydroxy)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-aminoheptylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-5-methylhexylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-aminoheptylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-4-cyclobutylbutylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester; and

H-Asp-Glu-Val-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-5-ethylheptylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

or a stereoisomer or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 18 (withdrawn) A compound of Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

Ac-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

Ac-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-trifluoromethyl)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

Ac-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-phenoxy)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

Ac-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-hydroxy)phenylpropylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

Ac-Val-Pro-(1*R*)-1-amino-3-(4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)phenyl)propylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester; and

Ac-Val-Pro-(1R)-1-amino-3-(4-(4-methylphenoxy)phenyl)propylboronic acid (+)-pinanediol ester;

or a stereoisomer or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A ~~pharmaceutical composition~~ comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of one of Claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) A method of treating HCV infection which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~one of Claim 16~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.